Ann Huston (Born 15 Aug 1762 Hustons Pleasure, Catfish Camp, Indian Land Died 4 May 1848 S Strabane twp, Washington co, Pennsylvania)

- Ann Huston was known as the "first white child born in Catfish Camp", 2nd marriage to John Bollen.
- Sign of The Buck Tavern. Joseph Huston, Elizabeth Beckwith Huston, William B Huston, James Fleming.
- William Huston of Catfish Camp early log cabin tavern. George Rogers Clark. Capt Michael Cresap.

Road of History Romance

by Earle R Forrest.
The Washington Reporter newspaper
7 Apr 1955, p28, clipping.

[Manual transcript of selected excerpt begins]

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Joseph Huston conducted this inn until his death in 1812, after which his widow, Elizabeth, continued the business for a short time and then sold to James Sargent, a tavern keeper at different locations in both Washington and Claysville. In April, 1815, Mrs. Huston again took charge, and continued to operate it until October, 1821, when James Fleming took charge. This change is shown by an advertisement in The Reporter of October 29, 1821, in which Fleming announced, "that he has commenced tavern keeping again in that well known stand at the Sign of the Buck, formerly kept by Mrs. Elizabeth Huston, three doors south from the corner of Main street, where the United States turnpike enters Main street from the east."

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(To Be Continued)"

[End manual transcript by B.CRYSTAL 2026]

The Buck Tavern

Joseph Huston "He was a cousin of William Huston, Washington's first white settler"

Elizabeth Beckwith Huston Fleming

William B. Huston son of Joseph and Elizabeth Huston of the Buck Tavern

William Huston of Catfish Camp

Ann Huston Ann Bollen b. 1762 "first white child born in Catfish Camp."

The Washington Reporter - Apr 7, 1955 Browse this newspaper » Browse all newspapers »

Road of History, Romance

By EARLE R. FORREST

(Continued From Yesterday)

When General Zachary Taylor was on his way to Washington City for his inauguration he unexpectedly passed through Washington. He had planned to go up the Ohio River to Pittsburgh, but the steamboat on which he had taken passage from Cincinnati was stopped by ice 16 miles below Wheeling. A full account of his arrival and reception here is given in The Reporter of February 28, 1849.

A telegram from Wheeling announced that he had left the boat at the point mentioned and traveled to Wheeling in a private conveyance, and he would arrive in Washington during the morning of February 21. A committee of arrangements previously appointed before it was known that he intended to go to Pittsburgh, got busy and arranged a reception. His coach was met at Rankinville (Rankintown), one mile west of the borough by the committee and just about everyone else in town who could secure a conveyance, and many on foot. Seabright says that Jack Balless drove General Taylor's coach.

From Rankinville the procession entered Washington, led by Captain Stoy's Saxe Horn Band, followed by an open barouche in which were General Taylor, General Joseph Markle, and Hon. Thomas M. T. McKennan. Immediately behind was a long line of carriages and just about every other kind of conveyance, all filled with people, and a long throng marching on foot.

Captain Stoy was a noted bandleader of that time, and his organization furnished music on almost every public occasion during the 1840s. In later years he lived in Waynesburg, where he was noted as a violin player.

General Taylor was received in front of the Courthouse by John L. Dye, who delivered a brief address of welcome. The general responded with much feeling at such a reception on short notice. Mr. Knox, of the Pittsburgh committee, made a brief address. At the conclusion of the ceremonies General Taylor was driven to the Mansion House "where a sumptuous dinner had been prepared by Messrs. Bryson and Shiris of which the general and suite partook."

After the dinner the general was introduced to a large number of citizens "who were all greatly delighted with his agreeable manners, noble, frank and honest countenances." Shortly before 2 o'clock he took his departure for Uniontown where he arrived at 7 o'clock.

In describing this reception for the President-elect, who was to die in office, The Reporter says:

Our town presented an animated scene on this occasion. We have never known so intense an anxiety on the part of our people to see any man as was manifested by both Sexes and men of all parties. So dense and eager was the crowd, that at times we thought the old roof could not stand, and such as had not physical strength to resist the press of the throng, would have been crushed in the general rush of the multitude. Everything passed off, however, very agreeably. All were gratified with a sight of the illustrious hero whose great actions have reflected imperishable renown upon our arms, and won for our country a proud name among the nations of the earth.

Stoy's band performed to admiration and elicited encomiums on all hands. Next to General Taylor it was the great point of attraction. It is a matter of felicitation that our Borough can boast so gentlemanly an association.

It seems rather a strange coincidence that just four days after Taylor's visit, General Lewis Cass, the Democratic opponent whom the Mexican War hero had defeated for the Presidency, should arrive in Washington. Although defeated for the highest office in the land, he had been elected as United States Senator from Michigan. He arrived here on Sunday, February 25, and stopped long enough for dinner. The Reporter account of February 24, 1849, does not state at what hotel he stopped, but he was called upon by a number of citizens. The Examiner, a Democratic paper, had reproved General Taylor for traveling on Sunday. The Reporter, a Whig paper, hoped that The Examiner would reprove General Cass for traveling on Sunday. He came here from Wheeling on that day, and The Reporter said that he should have laid over on Sunday at Wheeling, as he did not have to reach Washington, D. C., until March 5 to take his seat in the Senate.

S. S. & C. Hayes were succeeded as proprietors of the Mansion House by Harrison Sharis and James W. Kuntz Sr. The date of this change is not known, but two months later Hugh Bryson bought Kuntz's interest, Sharis and Bryson were in charge during General Taylor's visit. Proprietors after Sharis and Bryson were William Nichols and James B. Ruple. Thornton F. Miller, Harvey and Daniel Day, John H. Little, Samuel Melvin and George R. Kirk.

John N. Dagg died in 1860, a rich man for his time. In the early 1830s he erected a residence at the northeast corner of East Chestnut and North College streets. This was a very pleasing, square and rather odd dwelling with the second story over the sidewalk, where it stood for many years. No other home was ever built in Washington quite like it. It was razed about 30 years ago when the present Atlantic service station was erected on the site.

The Mansion House was completely destroyed by fire on April 16, 1866, and was never rebuilt. George R. Kirk was proprietor at the time.

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS KEYS. This was a large two-story frame building (probably log covered with lap siding) at the southeast corner of South Main and East Wheeling streets, where the Montgomery building, occupied by the West Penn Power office, now stands.

The first record of this tavern was in 1801 when William McCammont (some give the name as James McCammont) opened a public house in this building, which was probably now at that time. He kept this stand until his death on January 14, 1814, as noted in The Reporter of January 17. This account states that he died "after a short but painful illness." There is an old tradition that his death was caused by the bite of a mad wolfe. This may be true, judging from the announcement of a "short but painful illness." Many wolves infested Washington County at that time, and large numbers were afflicted with rabies. It is claimed that this disease wiped them out of Western Pennsylvania.

Whatever his illness, he knew that he was going to die, and on January 11 he made his will, which was probated on the 15th. He left names his wife as Mary. McCammant, who was a tavern keeper here for many years. He left a son named James.

Mrs. McCammant continued to operate the hotel until April 3, 1815, when she moved to "the Sign of General Washington," nearly opposite the Courthouse. James Sargent, proprietor of "The Sign of the Swan," succeeded her at the Cross Keys, and remained until April 10, 1820, when Mrs. McCammant returned. This is shown by her advertisement in The Reporter of that date. Just how long she remained is not known; but in January, 1831, she advertised that during the term of court; "Dinner and horse feed, 25 cents; jurors and others attending court, $2 per week."

Others who followed her were Charles Bradfield, John Bradfield, William Blakely, and Otho Hazlett. By 1844 the Cross Keys had closed as a tavern and was never reopened.

The Warrick Grocery was opened in a portion of this building in 1858 by George M. Warrick, grandfather of Earl Warrick, the present owner of the business.

In 1921 the old building was razed by A. J. Montgomery, the owner, and the present building erected.

Fortunately a photograph of the old tavern was taken by the late George Montgomery during the winter of 1890-91, shortly before it was torn down. It is an interesting picture of the olden time. Snow covered the ground, and at the side were a number of barrels. Men are seen standing in groups and on Wheeling street is a farmer's sled and a one-horse sleigh or cutter. If an artist had posed these groups the picture could not have been better.

During all the years that had passed since it was a tavern the old dinner bell stood on a high post in the old wagon yard in the rear, and Mr. Montgomery saved this ancient relic of the Cross Keys. He placed it on his wash house, and for many years it was used to call the farm hands to their meals. There it remained until 1949, when it was removed and presented to the Washington County Historical Society.

Before presenting it the Montgomery family had it mounted in an iron frame on which is a brass plaque with this inscription: "Presented by the Family of Martha Black Montgomery, January 31, 1949."

Mrs. Martha Black Montgomery was the wife of A. J. Montgomery and the mother of the late George Montgomery.

Dr. John Julius LeMoyne, father of Dr. Francis Julius LeMoyne, operated a tavern for a short time after coming to Washington in 1795 or 1796. In connection with his drug store. This was a log building on South Main street, at the foot of Gallows Hill. At that time this location was on the old trail West. Dr. LeMoyne entertained principally French emigrants on their way to Gallipolis, Ohio. However, his drug store kept him busy, and after a short time he moved to another log building, north of the corner of Maiden street, where his son was born. He ceased the tavern business in his new location.

LEMOYNE HOUSE. On the north side of East Maiden street, a short distance east of Main, is a large stone house, one of the most historic homes on the National Pike. Built in 1812 by Dr. John Julius LeMoyne, this was the home of the LeMoyne family until the death of his granddaughter 131 years later. Since that massive stone house was built 142 years ago every form of land conveyance has rolled past on the old National Pike—the pack-horse before the pike was built, the Conestoga wagon, the stage coach, the Iron Horse only a few feet away, the automobile, the motor bus and trucks, and airplanes and even big Navy dirigibles have flown overhead. On September 22, 1954, a Conestoga wagon returned to stop for a short time in front of its doors.

Francis J. LeMoyne was only 14 when his father moved into the new family home, and there he spent the remainder of his life. As a young man of 24 Dr. Francis J. LeMoyne became actively interested in freedom of slaves in the United States. When he became interested in any subject he immediately became active, and his tireless work in this cause earned him a national reputation as the first fighting abolitionist and the title of "Fearless Advocate of the Right," which is engraved on the stone that covers his ashes in front of the crematory which he built on Cowlows Hill in 1876. He founded an abolition society in Washington, when the cause was very unpopular here, but in a few short years he made it popular.

He organized an "Underground Railway" to aid slaves on their way to Canada before John Brown was ever heard of, and later he was associated with Brown in the underground movement. This house was a station on that famous "road" to Canada and freedom, and he had as many as 26 escaping slaves concealed at one time in a secret room in the third floor.

In the yard at the side the famous abolition meeting of 1836 was held, at which the Rev. Samuel Gould, guarded by a dozen brawny men armed with stout clubs, spoke in the cause of freedom of slaves, to a hostile gathering in the street. And on the third-story roof garden of the house LeMoyne boy stood ready with a long pole to push a hive of bees over into the yard in case the crowd should get past the guards. How that boy with LeMoyne blood in his veins ever resisted the temptation to push the hive over anyway, is a mystery to this day.

Dr. LeMoyne's interest in the Negro race did not cease with their emancipation, which he had labored so many years to bring about; and in 1870 he founded LeMoyne College, at Nashville, Tennessee, for their education. Opened in 1871, it is still a going institution. He founded the Citizens Free Library in 1870, and in 1876 built the first crematory in the United States, in which he was cremated on October 16, 1876.

Dr. Francis J. LeMoyne's youngest daughter, Madeleine, was born in this house on May 8, 1843, and like her father she was active in some good cause all her long life. Past that house Captain Norton McGiffin marched with the first company that left Washington on April 20, 1861, in answer to President Lincoln's call for volunteers; and as they marched amid the cheers of the crowd on the sidewalk and the flag waving of the LeMoyne girls gathered along the fence, young Robert Riegel, a soldier in the ranks, tossed a note tied to a stone over the fence a love note to the girl he left behind, telling the beautiful young Madeleine LeMoyne how much he loved her. They never saw each other again. A few weeks later he died of smallpox in a military hospital in Washington, D. C., and 46 years afterwards Madeleine LeMoyne married his older brother, George W. Reed.

Among the childhood memories of Madeleine LeMoyne were visits made by John Brown to her father in the interest of the Underground Railway and she remembered vividly the time when her father had those 26 escaped slaves in that secret room in the third floor.

In 1866 Madeleine LeMoyne accompanied an older sister, Rosamaina Wade, to Richmond, Virginia, on a visit to Julia Robertson Pierpont, wife of Francis Pierpont, the Union Governor of Virginia appointed just after the war closed. Her memories of the reverses Confederate capital and the feelings of the conquered Southern people remained vividly with her all the rest of her life.

She rode in everything of travel conveyance during her life. On June 24, 1936, at the age of 92 she made her first journey by airplane—from Washington, D. C., to Pittsburgh—and thoroughly enjoyed the trip. Her only comment was: "It was nearly as bumpy as a buggy in the old days. I felt at home riding up there."

After living a little more than a century in the house where she was born, her life crowded with activities to the very last, Mrs. Madeleine LeMoyne Reed, Washington's "First Lady," its oldest citizen, and the last child of Dr. Francis J. LeMoyne, died October 26, 1943, in the old homestead. John Q. Adams was President and George Washington was still living when her father was born, and when she died 145 years later the span of their combined lives covered the administration of every President of the United States, including Franklin D. Roosevelt, except one—George Washington.

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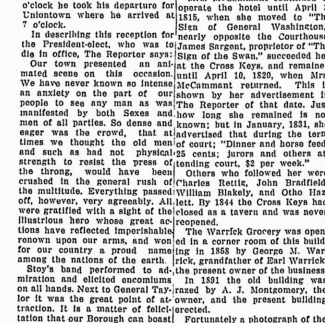
(To Be Continued)



This is a picture, taken in 1953, of what was once the Miller Tavern on the Pike two miles west of Scenery Hill and 10 miles east of Washington. It was first kept by Henry Taylor and then for many years by Charles Miller. It is now a tourist home, known as Eastern Pines, and is kept by Charles E. Antrom.

Here is a picture of the old tavern on the Pike at Malden. The front and west end of the building are shown here. It was built by the Kreppss family in 1822 and 1830 and the location was first called Kreppsville. This is one of the finest old stone taverns on the Pike.

Alfred U. Gets Money For A New Library

ALFRED, N. Y. (UP) — The wife of an Alfred University trustee has left a substantial bequest for the erection and equipment of a new library building.

The bequest under the terms of the will of the late Mrs. John P. Herrick of Olean, N. Y., will be for a memorial to her husband, John Pierce Herrick. The exact amount was not made public.

Herrick has been an Alfred trustee since 1921 and a generous contributor to university funds. His most recent gift was money for the addition last year of eight bells to the original 35 bells of the carillon.